

[Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 25 with the following paragraph:

cr When the encoding is ended for all macroblocks inside a slice, the processing routine shifts to the processing of the next slice (step S188). Below, similarly, when all processing of a picture is ended, the processing routine shifts to the processing of the next picture (step S189). When all processing of one GOP is ended, the processing routine shifts to the processing of the next GOP (step S190). This series of processing is repeated until the sequence is ended (step S191), whereupon the processing is ended (step S192).

[Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 10 with the following paragraph:

3 Below, similarly, when all processings of one picture are ended, the processing routine shifts to the processing of the next picture (step S20), and when the processing of all pictures of one GOP are ended, the processing routine shifts to the processing of the next GOP (step S21). Then, when these processing are repeated until the sequence is ended (step S22), the processing is ended (step S23).

[Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 1 with the following paragraph:

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com Also in the third processor 2-3, similarly, when the variable length coding MB1-VLC with respect to the macroblock 1 is ended in the first processor 2-1, the local decoding MB1-

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and
DEC with respect to that data is carried out. Then, when this local decoding MB1-DEC is ended,
the encoding MB3-ENC with respect to the next macroblock 3 is carried out.

[Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 8 with the following
paragraph:

Below, similarly, in the first processor 2-1, the second processor 2-2, or the third
processor 2-3, when the encoding MBx-ENC of the macroblock to be processed next is ended,
the variable length coding MBx-VLC of the encoded data is sequentially carried out.

[Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 13 with the following
paragraph:

ck
Further, in the second processor 2-2 and the third processor 2-3, when the variable length
coding MBx-VLC is ended in the first processor 2-1, the local decoding MBx-DEC with respect
to the macroblock thereof is carried out, and after the end of the processing, the encoding MBx-
ENC with respect to the next macroblock x+1 is subsequently carried out.

[Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 6 with the following
paragraph:

or
When the decoding of the slice header is ended, the master processor activates the slave
processors (step S45) and carries out the variable length decoding with respect to a macroblock
(step S46). The master processor repeatedly carries out this variable length decoding (step S47)
until this processing is ended for all macroblocks inside the slice.

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